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Comments: I live in Wilkerson Pass Estates and have a stake in the outcome of your proposed 704 Shooting Range. I adamantly oppose it. Homeowners have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their property. Even though outside the new '½ mile from a neighborhood rule', from our front porch I can see the ravine in which you will put the Omni Gallery portion of the range. We so clearly hear each and every shot fired over there that I know if someone is shooting at metal targets and what size their magazines are. Each shot produces an echo off the mountainside above and, with large caliber firearms, a second echo off the slope of Stoll Mt. behind our house. During good weather it goes on for hours on end. Since the 704 Range is obviously designed to accommodate a plethora (103 + 2-4 to be exact) of shooters the noise would be increased and constant. That is certainly a nuisance rather than a danger, but it's one many neighbors don't like either. Sounds carry a long way up here and I don't believe 10' side walls and a 20' back stop built into the slopes of Badger Mt. will suppress it much, if at all. Additionally, with an unrestricted shooting area proposed on the south side of Stoll and Pulver Mt.'s our subdivision and the adjoining neighbors' properties will be sandwiched between sources of gunfire. That is unacceptable.

Wildlife will also be negatively affected. Traveling west on Highway 24, just past Park CR 31 there is an "Elk Crossing Next 5 Miles" sign. Those five miles extend past the proposed 704 Shooting Range and on up Wilkerson Pass. There is a large area up here recognized as a wildlife corridor that is utilized not only by elk year-round but deer as well. Antelope move seasonally through the corridor, as do bighorn sheep. The size and scope of the 704 Range would create more traffic, more human presence and activity, more noise and will significantly disrupt ungulate migration routes. It's frustrating to note that the Forest Service fire mitigation project going on in the area will also actually create better forage and habitat for the resident elk and deer herds but Forest Service proposals across the highway will be detrimental to those same herds. The shooting range should be placed somewhere else.

I attended the public comment meeting in Divide. The presentation accurately described the increasing number of issues, as did the Teller County Commissioner who spoke. Accidents, conflicts, fire danger... the need for emergency services as recreational shooters are concentrated into specific areas is critically important to consider. A question was asked about Forest Service LEO at the proposed ranges. The answer of 'it depends on funding' was far less than comforting. Many people are willing to comply with rules and regulations, some just don't bother to learn, and some will refuse to comply no matter what.

Suppose we're in a burn/shooting ban, the range(s) are closed, and someone just goes to shoot somewhere else nearby... who will monitor that? It is shocking how many people come up from the front range or Teller County to go shoot at the unauthorized site on 704 who are oblivious to a burn ban being in place. Some of them even build little campfires by the side of the road. I know because I've seen it and talked to them. If an official range is created there (or in the other two possible locations) and MORE armed people are purposely directed toward it, FS LEO's had better be on site.

In considering emergency response times, the sites listed for Park County are in the Lake George Fire Protection District. Their response time will be fastest to the 90/92 site, with Badger Flats likely taking a bit longer than 704. Park County is so large that S.O. response times in this area are unpredictable. We consider ourselves lucky if it's less than 45 minutes.

It is rather disheartening to find that 704 is the only site you provide a detailed plan for and that it is more than twice the size of plans in Teller County. I hope I am wrong in thinking that you have a pre-determined outcome despite this public comment process. However, I will remain hopeful that my comments will be thoughtfully considered. Thank you for the opportunity.